

**FOR RELEASE****Friday, August 18, 2006****Contact :****Donna Murray**

(401) 462-8751

*Labor Market Information***Joyce D'Orsi**

(401) 462-8762

*Labor Market Information*

## Rhode Island Resident Employment Reaches a New High in July

Adelita S. Orefice, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, announced today that the number of Rhode Island residents working last month reached an all-time high of 548,100. Also, Rhode Island's

	<u>July 06</u>	<u>June 06</u>	<u>July 05</u>
Rhode Island	5.6%	5.5%	5.0%*
United States	4.8%	4.6%	5.0%*
* Revised			

unemployment rate for July rose slightly to 5.6 percent as more people entered the labor market looking for work. The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents edged up by 600 over the month to 32,500 in July. A year ago, the jobless level was 28,800 and the State's unemployment rate stood at 5.0 percent. Nationally, the unemployment rate for July rose by 0.2 of a percentage point to 4.8 percent. Compared to last

year, the national jobless rate is down 0.2 of a percentage point. Rhode Island's unemployment rate for July remained above the national average.

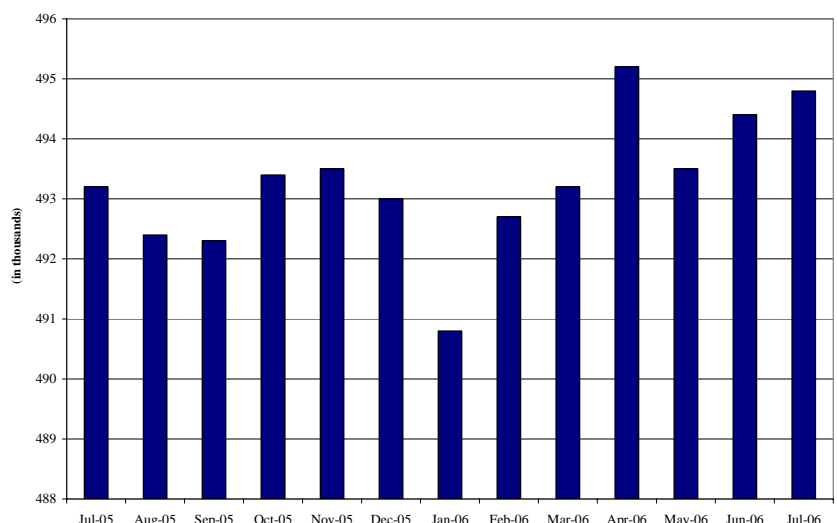
Jobs at Rhode Island businesses increased by 400 (+0.1%) last month, bringing the July job count to 494,800 (seasonally adjusted). Much of the employment gain was the result of a stronger-than-expected July for the State's Manufacturing sector. Historically, Manufacturing employment experiences a significant decline in July due to numerous factory slowdowns occurring during the traditional July vacation period. Cutbacks this year were smaller than usual resulting in an over-the-month job gain of 1,200 in the Manufacturing sector. Employment increases also occurred in Financial Activities (+300), and Leisure & Hospitality (+100).

"The overall trend remains positive," said Director Orefice. "Rhode Island employers have added 4,000 jobs since January and the number of working Rhode Islanders, which has been rising for the past several months, reached a record-high level in July."

Educational & Health Services experienced a monthly loss of 700 workers, reflecting declines in private college and university employment and in local hospitals. Less significant losses occurred in Construction (-300); Government (-200); Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-100); and Professional & Business Services (-100).

Over the year, jobs were up 1,600 (+0.3%) from the 493,200 jobs reported in July 2005. Annual employment growth occurred in the Financial Activities (+1,700); Construction (+1,100); Leisure & Hospitality (+1,100); and Professional & Business Services (+1,000) sectors, offsetting losses in Manufacturing (-800); Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-700); Other Services (-700); and Government (-100).

**Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted Establishment Employment**  
July 2005 to July 2006

**- More -**

Labor Market Information • 1511 Pontiac Avenue • Cranston, RI 02920

[www.dlt.ri.gov](http://www.dlt.ri.gov)

Governor Donald L. Carcieri



Director Adelita S. Orefice

## SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED NON-FARM EMPLOYMENT IN RHODE ISLAND

(in thousands)

	<u>Jul-06</u>	<u>Jun-06</u>	<u>Jul-05</u>	<u>Net Change From</u>	
				<u>Jun-06</u>	<u>Jul-05</u>
<b>Total Non-Farm</b>	<b>494.8</b>	<b>494.4</b>	<b>493.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1.6</b>
Construction	23.0	23.3	21.9	-0.3	1.1
Manufacturing	54.5	53.3	55.3	1.2	-0.8
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	79.6	79.7	80.3	-0.1	-0.7
Financial Activities	36.2	35.9	34.5	0.3	1.7
Professional & Business Services	56.5	56.6	55.5	-0.1	1.0
Educational & Health Services	95.6	96.3	95.6	-0.7	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	50.9	50.8	49.8	0.1	1.1
Other Services	22.6	22.6	23.3	0.0	-0.7
Government	65.2	65.4	65.3	-0.2	-0.1

*Note: Data may not be additive due to the exclusion of certain industry sectors from the seasonal adjustment process.*

### Hours and Earnings

In July 2006, the \$13.40 average hourly wage earned by the Manufacturing sector's production workers represented a monthly loss of nine cents per hour and an over-the-year gain of twenty-nine cents per hour. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 38.3 hours per week in July, down 0.4 of an hour over the month and 0.3 of an hour since July 2005.

---

*Note: Current month figures are preliminary; prior month and year are revised. Data may not be additive and are subject to revision.*

*The unemployment figures are based largely on a survey of households in Rhode Island and measure the unemployment status of people who live in the state.*

*The establishment employment figures are derived from a survey of businesses in Rhode Island and measure the number of jobs in the state.*

- 30 -

**Rhode Island Labor Market Information is available on our web site at [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi)  
The August labor force figures are scheduled to be released on Friday, September 15, 2006.**

#### *Equal Opportunity Employer/Program*

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

TDD (401) 462-8006

